

The  
Annual Report  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health

to the  
Liskeard Rural  
District Council

for the Year  
1939







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*To the Chairman and Members  
of the  
Liskeard Rural District Council.*

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GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1939. By the request of the Ministry of Health the report is kept as short as possible and only records of essential or urgent matters which have affected the public health during the year are recorded.

Notification of Infectious Diseases showed an increase on the previous year's figures, a total of 64 being notified. Of this number 27 were of Scarlet Fever which occurred during the last three-quarters of the year, Pneumonia, mostly of the Influenza type, being prevalent during the first quarter.

It is with great satisfaction that I am able to record that the Council has adopted the principle of free immunisation against diphtheria. The response has been fair, but there is still a large number of children in the Rural District who have not been immunised.

Lack of ventilation, due to the enforced "Black-out" of rooms, lends itself to the spread of numerous infections, but a little ingenuity can usually ensure an adequate supply of fresh air whilst at the same time preserving a complete absence of light showing outside.

The Employment position was stable during the year. There was very little unemployment, and those who were out of work were very quickly absorbed in work of national importance on the outbreak of hostilities. There was a good demand for agricultural

workers during the year, many of the workers leaving their situations to take other work at higher rates of pay. The demand and supply for seasonal work was normal.

Members of the Liskeard Division of the St. John Ambulance Association have continued their humane and very essential work, and the Ambulance has been ready for any call, day or night.

The District Nurses of our area are to be congratulated on their continued high standard of work, handicapped as they have been during the second part of the year by the "Black-out" conditions.

The Passmore Edwards Cottage Hospital has fully maintained its high reputation for treatment of cases from almost all parts of our district.

### Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area of the District	...	...	104,851 acres.
Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population (Midsummer 1939)	...	...	13,270
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1939 according to Rate Books	...	...	4,695
Rateable Value of the District	...	...	£35,347
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	£158

### Social Conditions.

There are no industries in the Rural District which are prejudicial to Public Health.

### Vital Statistics.

LIVE BIRTHS—		Total.	Male.	Female.
			Male.	Female.
Legitimate	...	140	66	74
Illegitimate	...	4	2	2
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	...	10.9
Birth-rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	15.00
STILL BIRTHS—		Total.	Male.	Female.
			Male.	Female.
Legitimate	...	9	2	7
Illegitimate	...	0	0	0
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	...	...	...	58.8

			Total.	Male.	Female.
DEATHS	...	...	203	102	101
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	...	...	15.3
Death-rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	...	12.1

#### DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES—

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	0
Other Puerperal causes	..	...	...	...	1

#### DEATH-RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE—

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	104.16
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	...	100
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...	...	250

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	25
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	2
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	1

### Chief Causes of Death.

		Total.	Male.	Female.
Influenza	..	9	4	5
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	6	3	3
G.P.I. and Tubes Dorsalis	...	1	1	0
Diabetes	...	4	2	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	7	1	6
Heart Diseases	...	70	31	39
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	8	4	4
Bronchitis	...	12	5	7
Pneumonia	...	4	3	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	1	1	0
Peptic Ulcer	..	1	0	1
Other Liver Diseases	..	1	1	0
Other Digestive Diseases	..	1	0	1
Nephritis (Acute and Chronic)	5	5	1	4
Congenital Debility and Premature Birth	..	11	7	4
Senility	...	5	2	3
Suicide	...	4	2	2
Other Violence	...	6	5	1
Other Defined Diseases	..	15	7	8

## General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

### Public Health Officers of the Authority.

#### (a) MEDICAL—

Medical Officer of Health—

Dr. E. S. Toogood, Golden Bank, Liskeard.

The following Medical Practitioners act as part-time District Medical Officers and/or as Public Vaccinators:—

Dr. A. G. Aitken	...	...	Callington.
Dr. W. H. King	...	...	Fowey.
Dr. A. McCloy	...	...	Polperro.
Dr. B. B. Metcalfe	...	...	Liskeard.
Dr. L. Moran	...	...	Looe.
Dr. O. R. Smale	...	...	Pensilva.

Dr. E. Wordley, of Plymouth, undertakes the pathological examination of material submitted.

County Tuberculosis Officer—Dr. Day,

County Hall, Truro.

#### (b) OTHERS—

Sanitary Inspector	}	Mr. G. Rogers, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Liskeard.
Meat and Food Inspector		
Milk and Dairy Inspector		
Building Surveyor		

Public Analysts of Water—

- (a) Chemical, Messrs. Benedict Kitto & Sons, London.
- (b) Bacteriological, Mr. Wm. Partridge, Holborn, London.

There has been no change in—

- A. Laboratory Facilities.
- B. Ambulance Facilities.
- C. Nursing (a) Home.  
(b) Infectious.
- D. Clinic and Treatment Centres.
- E. Hospital Facilities.

*Section C.*

**Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.**

1. (i.) WATER.

Some further progress was made during 1939 in connection with water schemes for Pensilva, Dobwalls, Pelynt, Pengover and Merrymeet. Proposals were examined and estimates considered, although in the cases of Pelynt, Pengover and Merrymeet the costs of the works made the schemes prohibitive.

The Dobwalls scheme was prepared and forwarded to the Ministry of Health with application for a loan.

The Pensilva scheme was shelved for the duration of the war.

(ii.) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During 1939 the Polperro Sewerage scheme was completed and put into use. Only a few connections from private houses remained to be made after December. The system was found to function very satisfactorily, and on examination at the outfall works, the effluent was seen to drift out to sea, in a direction entirely away from the harbour. The tunnel retained the village sewage during rising tides, and allowed it to discharge on the fall.

No other important work under this section was dealt with during the year.

## (iii.) PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

No new conveniences were erected during 1939.

## 2. (i.) RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

No action has been necessary under this heading.

## 3. (i.) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

A number of water closets were constructed during the year, and pail closets are taking the place of privies in many parts.

## (ii.) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse collection in the district has been extended to include all the villages in the Parish of St. Cleer. Here a monthly collection is made, and the refuse is disposed of in a disused quarry, and later covered with soil.

## (iii.) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

A number of inspections of houses, suitable for occupation by persons of the working classes, was made in 1939, but since the outbreak of war, the systematic inspections have been discontinued.

Inspections are now made, only following definite complaints.

## (iv.) SHOPS AND OFFICES.

No statutory action was taken under the Shops Act 1934 during the year.

## (v.) CAMPING SITES.

From inspections made of camping sites, it can be said that in general, sites in the district are kept in a clean and sanitary condition, and comply with the conditions laid down.

## (vi.) SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action necessary.

## (vii.) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

None in the District.

## (viii.) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No action necessary.

## 4. SCHOOLS.

These have been kept in a reasonably good sanitary condition throughout the year.

## 5. FACTORIES.

A few inspections, chiefly of workshops, were made during 1939, and the defects found were remedied by the owners without reference to H.M. Inspector of Factories.

*Section D.***Housing.**

By December, 1939, four new Council houses had been completed, and eight others had reached a stage when only minor items remained outstanding. It was fortunate that the Council's latest housing programme was nearing completion by September, so that the question of labour and materials did not cause much inconvenience.

Under the Housing Rural Workers Act, fourteen schemes of cottage reconstruction were completed and grants amounting to £1,360 were paid. A number of applications for grants were received towards the end of the year, but consideration was deferred until after the war. The total number of cottages which had been remodelled or improved under this Act up to December 31st, 1939, was 243. This means that one house in every twenty have been re-conditioned under this Act.

Plans for the erection of twenty-six houses by private enterprise were approved during the year, and sixteen premises were completed.

The systematic inspection of houses suitable for occupation by persons of the working classes has been temporarily discontinued, except in cases of complaint. In such instances the complaints are investigated, and where necessary, notices are served on the owners, or persons responsible, pointing out the work requiring attention.

## Section E.

**Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

## (a) MILK SUPPLY.

Inspections of cowsheds and dairies have been continued throughout the year, and numerous improvements in premises, and methods of milk production, have resulted. In every case where an application for an Accredited Milk License is made to the County Council, the premises are visited with an official of the County Dairy Department, and work necessary has been indicated to the occupier.

## (b) SLAUGHTERHOUSE LICENSES.

These were renewed in March, 1939, and up to the outbreak of war, frequent inspections were carried out.

## (c) ADULTERATION, ETC.

No action has been necessary under this heading.

## (d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

All Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food that may be necessary is carried out by the County Analyst.

**Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1939.**

Disease.	Cases Notified.										Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ... ..	27	0									0
Diphtheria ... ..	1	0									0
Enteric Fever (inc. Paratyphoid)	0	0									0
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	2	0									0
Pneumonia ... ..	12	0									4

**An Analysis of the Total Notified Cases under Age Groups.**

	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-& over	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	1	2	0	3	0	6	7	3	4	1	0	0	27
Diphtheria ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pneumonia ...	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	2	2	4	12
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2

## Prevention of Blindness.

No action has been taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, nor under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of Blindness nor for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

## Tuberculosis.

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the Milk Trade), nor under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925 (relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis).

### NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1939.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
5	...	—	—	—	1	..	—	1
15	...	1	2	—	—	..	1	2
25	...	1	—	1	—	...	—	—
35	...	—	1	—	—	...	1	—
45	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	1
55	...	—	—	—	—	...	1	—
65	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—
and upwards								
Totals	2	3	1	1	...	3	3	—
								1

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. S. TOOGOOD, M.A. Oxon, M.R.C.S.,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

Golden Bank, Liskeard.





